

TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 1992
Duchess of York losing bodyguard
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Saddam in firm control — U.S. official

WASHINGTON (R) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein is being kept in power by a clandestine flood of consumer goods and perhaps military technology and will not fall from power soon, a senior Defense Department official said on Tuesday. The statement by Assistant Defense Secretary James Lilley was the strongest in months by a top government official that Bush administration efforts to oust President Saddam through a year-old U.N. trade embargo are not working. "From what I've seen recently, it doesn't look like he will fall any time soon," the former U.S. ambassador to China told reporters in a breakfast interview. "Now, he may fall tomorrow and I'll look like a jackass." But Mr. Lilley said contraband goods are entering Iraq. "I don't think we're curbing the flow of goods. I think it's considerable," he said of the U.N. embargo aimed at pressing Iraq to destroy its ability to build weapons of mass destruction after the Gulf war. He said many Jordanian officials wanted to curb the flow of goods through their country but that it was very hard to do.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية «الراي»

Russian official confirms sub sale to Iran

JEDDAH (R) — A senior Russian official said on Tuesday the former Soviet Union sold three submarines to Iran but its successor states in the Commonwealth of Independent States had yet to honour the contract. Russian Khasbulatov, the speaker of the Russian parliament who is on a visit to Saudi Arabia, told a news conference the contract was signed under former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. U.S. newspapers reported the sale earlier this year but this appears to be the first Russian confirmation of the report that caused a stir among Iran's Arab neighbours and in Britain and the United States, which maintain a naval presence in the Gulf. "The deal was signed under Gorbachev but we have not supplied Iran with any of the submarines so far," Mr. Khasbulatov said. The Washington reports said Iran bought three K-class 73-metre diesel "patrol submarines" which carry 45 crew and 18 torpedoes each. There were suggestions at the time that the submarines, which would be the first to join the Iranian navy, here bought second-hand. Although military sources in the region had not been able to confirm the sale so far, American and British officials have cited Iran's probable acquisition of submarines as a reason for continued suspicion of its intentions in the Gulf.

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Israel: Iran making nuclear weapons

TEL AVIV (AP) — The head of Israeli military intelligence warned Monday that Iran has a large nuclear development programme that could threaten Israel if allowed to continue. Major General Uri Saguy also told reporters that he hoped Israel's repeated air attacks on guerrilla targets in South Lebanon would not lead to an escalation with Syria. Gen. Saguy also told reporters that Libya was developing long range missiles and Iran working to reach nuclear capability. "Iran is running a nuclear development programme of a size that worries us to the point of concern for our existence, if and when this process becomes irreversible," he said. If the programme is not stopped "at the end of this decade, or if you want the end of this century, Iran will be capable of achieving nuclear ability," he added. Although foreign reports have alleged that Israel has nuclear potential, Israeli officials customarily refuse to discuss such reports.

Iraq oil talks could resume in June

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Iraq has suggested resuming talks with the United Nations in Vienna during the second half of June on a plan for limited oil sales, but some problems still remain to be resolved, the chief U.N. negotiator said on Monday. Assistant Secretary-General Giandomenico Picco, who has been leading the U.N. team, told Reuters: "We have been discussing for a week or so when to resume and a suggestion has been put forward (by Iraq) for a meeting in the second part of June in Vienna." But he said some problems remained, with Iraq particularly uneasy about various inspections called for under the oil sales scheme.

Moldovan government resigns over bloodshed

KISHINEV (AP) — The premier and most of the Moldovan cabinet resigned Tuesday, apparently because of the government's failure to end bloodshed in the breakaway Transnistria region. President Mircea Snegur cancelled a trip to the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro and told legislators he needed two weeks to decide what to do. Premier Valeriu Muravsky remains in office until then. A government statement explaining the resignation said only: "Our economic and political measures have not found support (and) they have provoked dissatisfaction among the population."

Judge orders Syrian arms dealer held

MADRID (R) — A Spanish judge has ordered a Syrian linked by media reports to the 1988 Lockerbie bombing to be held in jail for further questioning on alleged crimes committed in Spain, court sources said on Tuesday. Investigating Judge Baltasar Garzon interrogated arms dealer Monzer Al Kassab for more than three hours on Monday night and will resume questioning on Wednesday, the sources said. Mr. Kassab, 46, was arrested at Madrid airport last week while entering Spain on an Argentine passport. Police said he was suspected of links with international terrorism, trading in stolen cars, illegal possession of arms and forging documents.

Floods kill 63 in Iran

NICOSIA (R) — Floods have killed 63 people and destroyed 12,000 houses in Iran recently, a senior official told Iran's news agency IRNA in the northeast city of Mashhad. At least 77 people died in Mashhad last weekend, Iranian Radio reported earlier. IRNA on Tuesday quoted Deputy Interior Minister Rasoul Zargar as saying more than 6,000 kilometres of roads and 100 bridges had been damaged by 30 severe floods in the past 75 days. Some 340,000 hectares of farmland had been inundated and 40,000 head of livestock killed, IRNA quoted Mr. Zargar as saying on Monday night. It gave no details of specific crops destroyed.

Jordan calls for end to inter-Arab differences

Sharif Zeid: United Jordan-Egypt stand will not only benefit both but also Arab Nation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker has called for an end to inter-Arab divisions, and said that Jordan stands ready to respond positively to any positive move from any Arab country to close Arab ranks.

In an interview published in Tuesday's issue of Egypt's Al-Ahram newspaper, Sharif Zeid particularly mentioned Jordan's relations with Egypt and Saudi Arabia, the two leading Arab states in the anti-Iraq coalition in the Gulf crisis.

He said the circumstances and challenges facing the Arab World warranted every move towards reconciliation and that there was no reason for the strain in relations.

"The Arabs are in dire need of a united stand in the current situation to confront Israeli challenges and

major changes taking place in the world," Sharif Zeid was quoted as saying. Excerpts from the interview were carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

"If Jordan and any other Arab country sought a united Arab stand on any issue, we would be in a much stronger position to confront our enemies in a far better shape," the prime minister said.

Jordan, he said, had made many initiatives in the recent past to draw closer Arab points of views and to improve and strengthen Arab positions but none of these initiatives were met with positive response worth mentioning.

While not directly referring to the strain in relations, the prime minister said it was time to overcome the "painful stage."

"The Egyptian people are a brotherly people dear to the heart of His Majesty King Hussein and of every Jordanian citizen," he said,

calling for unified positions between Jordan and Egypt to serve the interests of both countries and the Arab Nation.

Sharif Zeid also called for an end "to the era of slanders and defamations" and said that "Jordan does not see why Jordanian-Egyptian relations as they are now."

The prime minister described Saudi Arabia as a brotherly country and the Saudi people as unique and of noble origin.

"I think my message to the Egyptian people is a message to the Arab people everywhere," he said. "It is time to stand together to confront enemies and challenges."

The prime minister also paid tribute to Arab League Secretary-General Esmat Abdul Meguid, a former foreign minister of Egypt, who, he said, is exerting efforts to unify the Arab Nation.

Sharif Zeid expressed confidence in the abilities of Dr. Abdul Meguid to



Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker

serve this objective. A political commentary carried Tuesday by the semi-official Al-Ahram and written by its deputy editor Hassan Al Bakr signalled a shift in approach, away from criticism to appreciation of the Jordanian position.

"Jordan is a land of difficult confrontations and facing challenges for more than 40 years," it said. "It is struggling through its democratic changes, away from the rule of the elite towards political pluralism, from the far left to the far right."

Mr. Bakr expressed confidence in "Jordan's ability to continue in its

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Hamas says no deal yet with Fateh

NICOSIA (R) — The Islamic movement Hamas on Tuesday denied it had signed an agreement with rival Palestinian group Fateh to end their feuding and work together in the Israeli-occupied territories.

"We were surprised at Fateh's leadership when it published on June 7 a document of honour between Fateh and Hamas; it was published unilaterally and did not necessarily express the will and the opinion of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas)," a Hamas statement said.

The agreement was announced to a leaflet distributed on Sunday in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and signed both by the Muslim fundamentalist Hamas and by Fateh, the main wing of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Hamas said the statement came only from Fateh and discussions were still going on.

Sunday's statement said the two groups, which have worked independently, often at cross purposes, since the start of the Palestinian uprising in December 1987, had agreed to form a joint steering committee "in order to unite efforts against the occupation forces."

Hamas opposes the Arab-Israeli peace talks and advocates the creation of a Palestinian state in place of Israel.

PLO hopes France will put on trial 'Mossad agents who killed Bseiso'

TUNIS (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said on Tuesday it hoped France would put on trial Israeli intelligence agents it accuses of killing its deputy security chief in Paris.

"We hope the French government will onmask the Mossad network active in Paris and take legal action," PLO spokesman Ahmad Abdul Rahman told Reuters.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat blamed Mossad for the killing of Atef Bseiso, deputy security commissioner for the PLO, outside a Paris hotel on Monday.

Israeli officials dismissed the charge. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said: "I am not able to say anything and I don't know anything."

Israel's army intelligence chief Uri Sagie alleged Mr. Bseiso had been a member of the Black September movement which killed 11 Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympic Games in 1972.

"We are aware of Israeli methods," Yitzhak Shamir's remarks, and statements saying Atef Bseiso was implicated in the Munich attack in 1972, show indirectly that the Israeli Mossad is really the instigator of the murder," Mr. Abdul Rahman said.

The PLO spokesman said Mr. Bseiso was responsible for the security of the Palestinian delega-



Atef Bseiso

tion at the Middle East peace conference in Madrid last year.

"In this capacity, he collaborated officially with security agents of other delegations present in Madrid to ensure the peace conference's security. He won the respect of European security bodies and Mossad well knows it," he added.

"By perpetrating this attack on the Palestinian official, Mossad once again tried to scuttle peace efforts," he said.

A Palestinian group led by Abu Nidal on Tuesday denied reports that it was behind the Bseiso killing.

"We have nothing at all to do with the assassination of Atef Bseiso," a spokesman for Abu Nidal's Fateh Revolutionary Council (FRC) told Reuters in Beirut.

Asked about a statement purporting to come from the FRC claiming responsibility for the killing, the spokesman said: "This is a suspicious statement. These are rumours aimed at undermining our organisation."

Mr. Abdul Rahman described the purported FRC claim as Israeli propaganda.

"This is only to hide Mossad's role, as they did in the past to hide their other crimes. Our knowledge of Mossad's operations and the degree of professionalism in that crime points the finger of accusation to Mossad and not to any other party," he told Reuters.

France condemned the assassination, but authorities shed no light on conflicting claims of responsibility.

About 90 minutes later, another caller said the Kach splinter group Kahane Lives carried out the assassination. That breakaway group was founded by Meir Kahane's son Benjamin after his father was killed. The caller charged the PLO was sup-

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Parliament called to extraordinary session

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued Tuesday summoning Parliament for an extraordinary session starting June 20, 1992.

The extraordinary session, which is summoned in line with Article 82 of the Constitution, will be dedicated to the following topics:

Draft laws on political parties and press and publication, an amendment to a law on youth welfare, an amendment to a law on the Jordan Academy of Arabic, a draft law on economic crimes, an amendment to a law on higher education, an amendment to a law on the Amman Financial Market, an amendment to a law on the Development and Employment Fund, a draft law on Arabic language, a draft law on the Jordanian corporation for guarantees on exports, an amendment to the value added tax law, a temporary amendment to a law on public debt, a temporary amendment to the law on courts, a temporary law on specifications and standards, an amendment to a law on the formation of courts, a temporary law on trade licences, a temporary amendment to a law on trade licences, a temporary law on care for the handicapped, a temporary law on landlords

and tenants, a temporary law on the Jordan Press Association, a temporary law on civil status, a temporary amendment to a law on civil status, a temporary law on the civil code, a temporary amendment to the law on the Housing Bank, a temporary law on the national building code, a temporary law on the Social Security Corporation, a temporary amendment to the Social Security Corporation law, a temporary law on the Jordanian Farmers Federation in the Jordan Valley, a temporary law on private universities, a temporary law on organising cities and villages and buildings, a temporary amendment to a law on organising cities and villages, a temporary law on public sewerage for municipalities, a temporary law on the Jordan Medical Council, a temporary law on the Martyrs Fund for the Civil Defence Department, a temporary law on education, a temporary law on companies, a temporary law on consumer tax, a temporary law on customs, a temporary law on encouraging investments, and a temporary law on postal savings.

The extraordinary session will also debate the Audit Bureau reports of 1987 through 1990 and will follow-up on reports by the public prosecution and discuss national issues.

Shamir rules out Palestinian elections

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir told a parliamentary committee on Tuesday he would bar Palestinians from holding elections in the occupied territories this autumn, sources at the meeting said.

"There will not be unilateral elections in October. It is in their imagination and without any significance," Mr. Shamir told parliament's foreign affairs and defence committee.

Palestinian leaders have said they would go ahead with a vote in the West Bank and Gaza Strip even if there was no accord with Israel by Oct. 30.

U.S.-brokered Middle East peace talks last year set that date as a target for interim self-rule arrangements for Palestinians. But Israel has rejected Palestinian plans to hold internationally-supervised elections to prepare for self-rule.

"We agree we need to continue negotiations on elections and in the past we have done this in the Camp David accords," Mr. Shamir said in reply to a question.

Yasser Abed Rabbo, a member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) Executive Committee, said in Amman this week that Palestinians would keep preparing for elections.

Israel is willing to offer Palestinians autonomy over local government but not over key areas such as control of land and natural resources.

Mr. Shamir's hardline Likud Party is competing against the Labour Party led by Yitzhak Rabin in a June 23 general election. Mr. Rabin has said he would give Palestinians autonomy within six months if he became prime minister.

Two anti-Arab parties descended from the movement of assassinated rabbi Meir Kahane lost their supreme court appeal Tuesday against being banned from running in the June 23 election.

The central elections committee, made up of politicians and headed by a retired judge, disqualified the two factions last week as racist and anti-democratic.

To separate rulings, five-judge supreme court panels rejected their argument that they had dropped the racist planks from their platforms.

King gives personal funds for shrines in Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday announced that he was making allocations from his personal funds to finance the restoration of a shrine at the burial place of one of the companions of the Prophet Mohammad and those of two prophets, all buried in Jordan, as well as a grand mosque in Irbid. In a message to Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, King Hussein said he would himself follow up the process of the restoration of not only these sacred tombs and also various mosques built on the tombs of other companions of the Prophet in the north, central and southern regions of the country.

In his message, the King said that the project will be undertaken in recognition of the achievements of those great men whose remains are buried in the Kingdom.

King Hussein said that he was allocating JD 500,000 for the restoration of the tomb and shrine of Jaafar Ben Abi Taleh, one of the companions of the Prophet, buried near Karak in the south, and other funds for the restoration and upkeep of Prophet Shueib and Prophet

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Undercover Israelis kill 1 in West Bank

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Undercover Israeli soldiers hunting for a Palestinian fatally shot his cousin Tuesday, Arab reports said.

The army confirmed that Tawfik Shehata, 45, was shot and said police were investigating.

Arab accounts said soldiers disguised as Arabs raided the village of Rumana in the northern West Bank looking for a Palestinian fugitive, and shot his cousin to death as he peered from a window in the pre-dawn darkness.

Israeli employers blocked roads in the occupied Gaza Strip on Tuesday to protest at new laws preventing thousands of Palestinians from working in Israel.

About 100 Israelis, mainly building contractors, chanted slogans, stopped cars and barged on their roofs until police threw them out of the tightly guarded strip.

"No to permits," they shouted at Erez checkpoint, at the north of the strip, where tens of thousands of Arabs usually gather at dawn to be picked up for work.

Israel sealed off the strip for two weeks after a Gazan stabbed to death an Israeli girl outside Tel Aviv.

It reopened the strip on Monday but tightened the rules for Arabs to work in Israel.

In another development, Israel has curtailed the visas of some 100 American and European peace activists detained this weekend.

The peace activists, from the United States, Canada and Europe, are in Israel for a week of demonstrations against occupation timed to coincide with 25th anniversary of the 1967 war. Police detained 110 members of the group in northern Israel Sunday.

A police statement said that the visas of those detained would be curtailed by the interior ministry and that they would be given several days to leave the country.

Kathy Kelly, who came from Chicago, Illinois, to protest against Israel's occupation of the territories and to promote peace, said the decision to curtail the visas gave the activists "a taste of occupation."

"And I think we have also had a sense of what it is like to face deportation," she said.

Asked if the group would continue their demonstration despite the orders, Ms. Kelly said that they had come to Israel to support Palestinians and Israelis in their "mutual aspirations for a peaceful resolution."

"I doubt anyone will feel that after spending two days in jail he has achieved his goals and is going to pack his bags and go home," Ms. Kelly said.

On the Occasion of the Anniversary of
The Great Arab Revolt and Army Day



ARAB BANK

has the honour to convey to

HIS MAJESTY KING HUSSEIN

and the Jordanian People its

felicitations and best wishes.

Libya gives IRA information to U.K

GENEVA (R) — Libya gave information on its past contacts with the Irish Republican Army (IRA) to Britain on Tuesday in a move that could help lessen Tripoli's isolation.

"I received some information, I'm transmitting it to London and we shall study it," British Charge d'Affaires Edward Chaplin, told reporters after a two-hour meeting at the U.N. office in Geneva.

Libya's ambassador to Tunisia, Abdul Ati Al Obeidi, a former foreign minister, headed a four-man Libyan team at the meeting. He said the atmosphere was "very friendly."

Foreign Office officials in London said it could take weeks to assess the information and determine whether Libya had complied fully with Britain's request for information on IRA contacts, arms shipments and other assistance.

"We are now studying this material," a spokeswoman said.

The U.N. has applied sanctions against Libya for what it says is its failure to cooperate in establishing who sabotaged a Pan Am flight over the Scottish village of Lockerbie in 1989 and a French UTA airliner over Niger in 1988. The bombings killed 41 people.

Britain severed diplomatic relations with Libya in 1984 after a policewoman was shot dead outside the Libyan embassy in London. Ties have been strained since then.

As a condition for improved relations, Britain has demanded proof that Tripoli has ended support for what the Foreign Office calls "international terrorism, in-

cluding the IRA."

The IRA is waging a campaign, including bomb attacks, in an attempt to end British rule in Northern Ireland.

There was no immediate indication that Libya was willing to turn over two Libyans suspected of involvement in the Lockerbie case for trial in Britain or the United States, as London and Washington demand.

Both Mr. Obeidi and Mr. Chaplin avoided questions on the subject.

Mr. Obeidi said the meeting was very useful.

"You thought in the beginning we would not talk, but we talked for two hours," he said. "We talked about our relations, we talked about (U.N.) Security Council Resolution 731."

That resolution, on Jan. 21, called on Libya "to contribute to the elimination of international terrorism" and to answer British, French and U.S. requests about the airliner bombings.

One British request was for information on Libyan arms shipments to the IRA and other assistance it may have given.

Asked if he had given information on the arms shipments, Mr. Obeidi said: "Well, we exchanged a lot of information which is useful to the purposes of Security Council Resolution 731."

Libya says it has renounced terrorism and wrote to U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali in May offering to meet Britain's request for information on the IRA.

Sudan rebels say they briefly took part of Juba

NAIROBI (R) — Sudanese rebels said they briefly overran the military headquarters of government-held Juba, the southern capital, and inflicted heavy casualties and damage.

"Commando and associated forces captured (an) artillery unit and southern command headquarters and occupied them for three hours," said a rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) statement dated June 7 and given to Reuters on Monday.

Calling the attack operation Jungle Storm, it added: "The enemy suffered very heavy casualties in men and equipment, stores were set ablaze and a thick black cloud covered Juba."

Rebel forces were now between three and 10 kilometres from the military headquarters and had occupied six garrisons surrounding the key town of 300,000 people.

The attack, which SPLA sources said was still going on, came just three days after the rebels and government ended talks in Nigeria's capital Abuja.

In the first joint document signed by both parties since the war started in 1983, the two sides said they would work towards an interim arrangement and ensure a devolution of powers to the component parts of Sudan as a way of finding a solution to the war.

But the SPLA statement said the Abuja talks were "a failure" and had collapsed due to the government's rejection of rebel demands for a secular constitution or failing that, secession for the south.

The SPLA is fighting to end what it sees as domination by the Arabised Muslim north over the mainly Christian black south.

Government forces have captured 12 towns in a dry season offensive launched in March. The rebels have been seriously weakened by their expulsion from bases in Ethiopia last year and a split in the leadership last August.

The statement was issued by the mainstream SPLA faction under John Garang.

It said: "The attack on Juba should show the fundamentalist government that it will get it war that it opted for in Abuja." It said the SPLA would now adopt "classical guerrilla warfare and (avoid) the static defence of cities."

Kenya rejected Saudi arms ships

Sudanese officials on Monday said Kenya had refused docking facilities at its Mombasa port to two Saudi Arabian ships allegedly carrying weapons for the southern rebels, but Kenya denied knowledge of the incident.

Investigators wade through murky American ties with Iraq, Iran

WASHINGTON (R) — Investigators this summer may unravel complex ties binding U.S. power-brokers to Iran and Iraq as they trace charges of wrongdoing by the Republican foreign policy establishment.

In volatile hearings and possible trials, three inquiries will try to untangle a maze of policies spanning a dozen years, hoping to support the allegations or put them to rest.

In the background is the Nov. 3 presidential election, with both Democrats and Republicans looking for any possible political fallout from the Middle East investigations.

The probes centre on complex and at times secret ties between some of the top Republican statesmen of the past decade and the twin superpowers of the Middle East. They are asking questions that reach into the White House.

Did President George Bush pursue a misguided aid policy that helped arm Iraq in the run-up to the Gulf war?

Did senior Republicans lie to Congress about the explosive Irangate arms-for-hostages scandal, possibly to shield their superiors?

Could the Ronald Reagan-Bush campaign team have struck an earlier hostage-weapons swap with Tehran that helped foil President Jimmy Carter's reelection effort of 1980?

Mr. Bush puts the charges

down to election-year politics.

And experts say that while the ground is fertile for conspiracy theorists, the investigators are unlikely to dig up hard evidence that hurts Mr. Bush's presidential campaign.

"It's ironic that these things are all coming to head but they are on separate tracks, and by the time the tracks cross in a meaningful way, the election will be long over," said Scott Armstrong, a professor at American University.

"I could have had devastating consequences for the political ambitions of George Bush if the three different tracks converged sooner," Mr. Armstrong said.

The ties span the 1980 rise and reign of the Reagan-Bush team and stretch into the Bush presidency.

Democrats hope the probes will unearth facts that point to blundering or wrongdoing by the Republicans and undermine Mr. Bush's claim as a foreign policy statement.

"If the find fingerprints on a smoking gun, there is potential for an explosion. But that has to be put in context of the real domestic issues of this campaign," said Kenneth Stein, who advised Carter on the Middle East.

All three of these (investigations) could shoot political blanks, but I'm not one to say never — particularly as far as the Middle East is concerned," Mr. Stein added.

Democrats are fiercely pressing allegations that flawed Republican policy led to secret arms sales to Iraq — arms that were later turned on Kuwait in the Gulf war.

"We tried to work with him," Mr. Bush said of Iraq's Saddam Hussein this week. "I know what we did, it wasn't anything illegal."

But top Democrats want an independent prosecutor to get on the case after reams of newly declassified memos, some damaging, point to the tight nature of U.S.-Iraqi ties.

"Yes, these probes are political. But yes, they are valid too. There are lessons to be learned," said Daniel Pipes, an analyst at the Foreign Policy Research Institute.

Bush aides admitted they made a bad mistake by granting Baghdad agricultural loans so close to the Kuwait invasion but said the policy seemed prudent at the time. They also stressed there was no proof that Baghdad used the money to buy arms.

"There nonetheless exists the potential to play into the election, particularly if the Bush administration handles it badly," said Geoffrey Kemp, a senior adviser to Mr. Reagan and now an analyst at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

"But in the absence of some smoking gun, I think the stories have gone about as far as they can go," he said.

Algeria arrests 14 armed Muslim activists, releases 641 detainees

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Algerian security forces arrested 14 armed Muslim activists in various parts of the country at the weekend, the official news agency APS said on Monday.

The included six suspected members of the Armed Islamic Movement in Algeria (MIAA), which issued a statement on May 21 saying it would launch holy war against police and magistrates from June 20.

Quoting paramilitary police sources, APS said the six were found in possession of explosives at Baraki, 45 kilometres south of Algiers. About 10 other members of the group were arrested a few days before, the agency added.

Six members of another group, whose leader was believed to be a supporter of the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), were arrested in the Aurès mountain area of Laghouat near Batna in eastern Algeria.

Two of the people were arrested at a road block in the town of Larbaa, 25 kilometres south of Algiers, when police found a submachinegun in their vehicle.

Earlier, Algiers Radio reported that more than 600 Muslim fundamentalists have been released from a desert detention camp to coincide with 'Eid Al Adha holiday.

Several hundred other de-

tainees arrested and held without charges under the government's Feb. 9 state of emergency have been released in the past week, the radio said. An exact number was not available.

The 641 people freed from the Bordj Omar Driss detention centre southwest of Algiers effectively emptied the camp, the radio said.

Mohammed Bouafia, head of the army-backed high state committee which seized power in January, promised the releases to coincide with 'Eid Al Adha to be celebrated Thursday.

Three other detention centres are to be closed and detainees moved to the north. Temperatures in the overcrowded desert camps are climbing towards 40 degrees C (104 degrees F).

Thousands of people have been arrested since the government took power, cancelled legislative elections that likely would have been won by the FIS and banned the party. Most of the party leaders are in custody, and troops continue to pursue armed fundamentalists who have vowed to fight.

More than 60 police and security forces have been wounded or killed since mid-February.

A retired police officer driving through an Algiers suburb was shot and killed Sunday by un-

known gunmen who fled in another car.

On Friday, the bullet-riddled body of a young policeman was discovered in an Algiers cemetery, one day after he had been abducted from outside his home. The killers were still at large, police said.

The government, meanwhile, has announced a series of measures it hopes will improve the economy and undermine grassroots support for fundamentalism among poor, urban youth.

But on Monday, a human rights group sent an open letter to the government complaining of the scarcity of medicine and its skyrocketing price.

The National Human Rights Observatory said the price of medicine has risen 700 per cent in the past few months. "The scarcity of medication or its non-availability because of a prohibitively high cost has interrupted treatment, heart disease, hypertension, heart disease, ulcers, asthma and chronic respiratory insufficiency," the group wrote.

State-run radio said 10 doctors at a hospital in Batna have resigned to protest the lack of drugs. In some hospitals, the families of patients must provide their own surgical thread, compresses, syringes and alcohol, hospital workers said.

Jordan calls for end to differences

(Continued from page 1)

path despite the challenges which started with the Arabisation of the army."

The writer noted that Jordan had started the process of democratisation as far back as 1957 but had stumbled. "For more than 30 years (since then) Jordan lived through a stage of variables fall of dangers which reached their peak in the 1967 war," he said.

The Al Karameh Battle of March 1968 was a turning point for Jordan to end the state of deterioration and defeat, he wrote. The 1970s consti-

tuted a stage of attaining reconstruction and launching a number of development projects and building infrastructure.

The Jordanian economy, he said, managed to attain a high rate of growth accompanied by the spread of education so that Jordan has 10 universities, including three government-owned universities.

The writer said these changes were not concomitant with political developments and that is why King Hussein decided to quickly resume parliamentary life, which had come to a standstill after the severance of formal links with the West Bank in

1988, and held parliamentary elections in 1989.

"In Jordan no-one can say that any specific party is the government since the regime does not have a party that rules in its name and this could be attributed to the fact that the supreme leadership of the country enjoys the endorsement of everyone," Mr. Bakr wrote.

"Everybody, from the extreme right to the left, to the independent press, to the religious, disagree with each other everything, but they agree on one thing: The King himself and the continuation of the monarchy."

The 1989 elections, he noted, were held under the supervision of Sharif Zeid and "all observers had agreed that the elections produced the first Parliament which enjoys full freedoms and freedom of the press."

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Emir allows 64 Bahraini exiles to return

BAHRAIN (AP) — Bahrain's ruler, Sheikh Isa Ben Salman Al Khalifa, has granted amnesty to 64 Bahraini living in exile since 1980 on the occasion of the feast of Eid Al Adha, it was reported Tuesday. This was the second batch of Bahrainis allowed to return after being abroad for more than a decade. Two months ago, on the occasion of Ramadan, the emir granted a similar amnesty to 57. It is customary in all Islamic countries for rulers to declare amnesties or pardon large numbers of prisoners on the occasion of main Muslim or national feasts. The official announcements say these Bahrainis "left the country of their own accord after committing violations of laws and regulations and disrupting the safety and security of the country." It is not known if more Bahrainis are in the same predicament abroad. Nor were there details on the purported security violations.

Radical group pulls out of Ethiopia polls

ADDIS ABABA (R) — An Ethiopian radical Islamic political group on Monday said it had withdrawn from regional elections to be held on June 21 because of intimidation. The Islamic Front for the Liberation of Oromia (IFLO), one group representing the populous Oromo tribe, said in a statement its offices had been closed down in Addis Ababa and other towns and "thousands" of supporters were detained. It added that forces of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), which dominates the government, were hunting down IFLO supporters in the Oromos' home areas. Diplomats say the northern, Christian-based EPRDF has clashed on several occasions with IFLO forces in the southeast of the country and killed top IFLO leaders in shootouts.

French-Arab youths protest friend's death

PARIS (R) — French youths of Arab origin rampaged through a Paris working-class suburb after one of their friends was killed in a knife fight at the weekend, officials said on Tuesday. Regional administrator Jean Malfreit told reporters several dozen youths smashed shopwindows and damaged parked cars in the centre of Argenteuil, north of Paris, on Monday evening and again around Midnight. At least three were arrested. Reporters at the scene said the youths, French-born children of immigrants from former French North African colonies, believed the killing of their 19-year-old friend was racially motivated. Detectives investigating the case told local newspapers they believed the youth, on leave from service as a conscript in the French army, was peddling hashish when killed by a client in a dispute over prices.

Israel to acquire Berlin embassy building

WASHINGTON (AP) — In another twist brought by the end of the cold war, a building long known as communist Cuba's embassy in east Berlin is to become the Israeli embassy for unified Germany, courtesy of its Jewish owners. With Berlin replacing Bonn as the German capital, Israeli plans to move its embassy into the Berlin structure, the U.S.-based World Jewish Congress (WJC) said Monday. WJC Executive Director Elan Steinberg said the building, located in the heart of recently unified Berlin, was used as a school for deaf mutes until the Nazis came to power in 1933 and confiscated all Jewish-owned properties. With the 1945 allied victory, East Berlin became the capital of communist East Germany, and the authorities gave the former Jewish school to Cuba, their close ally, to use as an embassy. The Cubans now maintain a diplomatic presence in Bonn and it is not known how when or whether they will move it to Berlin.

Kurdish journalist killed in Turkey

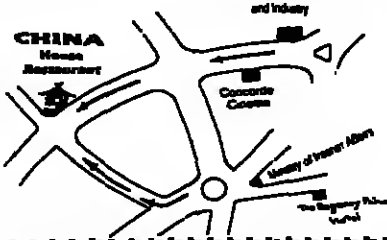
ANKARA (R) — A Kurdish newspaper journalist was killed by an unidentified gunman in the southeastern city of Diyarbakir, an official of the daily said on Tuesday. Hafiz Akdemir, 27, was killed by a single shot to his head on Monday morning as he walked to the offices of the Ozgur Gunden where he worked as a reporter, editor Veli Ozdemir told Reuters. The gunman escaped on foot. Mr. Akdemir had served a seven-year jail term for separatism from 1984 for his links with the Kurdish National Liberation (KUK), a secessionist group active in the late 1970s. The banned Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) has been leading the fight for an independent Kurdish state in the southeast since 1984. More than 3,800 people have been killed in the insurgency. Mr. Ozdemir said Mr. Akdemir's slaying bore similarities to the killing of three other journalists in the southeast in the past, who all died after being shot in the head.

Amnesty regrets German arms deliveries

ETTILINGEN, Germany (R) — The human rights organisation Amnesty International criticised the Bonn government on Monday for lifting its arms embargo on Turkey. The decision gave the wrong message about the human rights situation in Turkey, the German branch of Amnesty said in a resolution at its annual conference. Germany said last week it had decided to remove its ban on military aid to NATO partner Turkey after Ankara promised German weapons would not be used against guerrillas at home. Relations were soured when Bonn stopped supplying military aid in March saying Turkey used German-supplied armoured cars against the Kurdish minority in the south-east in violation of a pledge not to use such arms in domestic conflicts. In the resolution, Amnesty delegates said: "Still we hear more reports of murders and massacres of Kurdish villagers in southeast Turkey." In view of this, it is to be feared that German weapons will again be used in the future to commit shameful acts such as torture and murder under the pretext of defending against terrorist actions."

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PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Le Monde est a vous
19:00 News in French
19:15 Carre Vert
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Opening ceremony of the European soccer championship: Denmark vs England
22:00 News in English
22:30 A Tale of two Cities

PRAYER TIMES

6:51 Fajr
6:52 (Sunrise) Duha
12:34 Dhuhr
16:14 'Asr
19:42 Maghreb
21:16 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedisch, Tel. 810740
Annunciation of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625541

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775251
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811255
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 673691

Min./Max. temp. 19/33
Aqaba 22/38
Djersa 16/34
Jordan Valley 21/36

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 32, Aqaba 38. Humidity readings: Amman 30 per cent, Aqaba 15 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Abdul Hadi Tawqan 620115
Dr. Mohammad Al-Nabari 620923
Dr. Mohammad Masana 914444
Dr. Basim Qaddoumi 648024
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al-Aussa pharmacy 637053
Nabulsi pharmacy 625672
Al-Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsi pharmacy 637660

DRBD:
Dr. Zaid Al Bakri (-)
Al-Sarraf pharmacy (278225)

ZARQA:
Dr. Abid Ghazal (-)
Khalaf pharmacy 983417

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630441
Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 773212
Highway Police 804062
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 603221
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdullah Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 772111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 636381
RU Flight Information 08-52300
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 08-52320

EMERGENCIES

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Matarah, J. Amn 644216
Abdel Matarah, J. Amn 644412
Jabal Amman Maternity 64342
Madras, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsi 6641714
Shamsi Hospital 669131
University Hospital 840843
Al-Mushtaq Hospital 672279
The Islamic, Abdali 6612757
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Mutajreen 771013
Al-Bashir, J. Asfarah 7751126
Aney, Maria 8916175
Queen Alia Hospital 0224059
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)83323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)83560
Aney, Maria (09)86732
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)86732
Al-Hamam Modern Hospital (09)86732
DRBD:
Princess Beama Hospital (02)27555

HOSPITALS

FOR THE TRAVELLER
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Other Flights (Terminal 2)

17:45 Cairo (RJ)
17:55 Frankfurt (RJ)
18:25 Istanbul (RJ)
18:30 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:35 Brussels, Paris (RJ)
19:30 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
19:35 Rome (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 1)

08:10 Karschi (PK)
11:30 Jordan (SU)
11:35 Sami (TY)
12:45 Sharjah, Abu Dhabi (GF)
13:20 Cairo (MS)
20:40 Paris, Damascus (AF)
20:45 Damascus (PK)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
07:20 Damascus (RJ)
11:30 Rome (RJ)
12:45 Tunis, Chateaubriant (RJ)
13:40 Istanbul (RJ)
13:50 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
13:55 London (RJ)
15:45 Cairo (RJ)
16:15 Athens (RJ)
16:45 Colombo (RJ)
16:50 Cairo (RJ)
21:40 Riyadh (RJ)
21:50 Dhahran (RJ)
22:00 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
21:50 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
21:50 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
21:55 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
21:55 London (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:40 Damascus (PK)
09:45 Beirut (MS)
14:15 Cairo (MS)
14:30 Sami (TY)
15:00 Jordan (SU)
15:20 Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)
21:45 Karachi (PK)

MARKET PRICES

Apples (red) 700 / 600
Bananas 500 / 450
Bananas (Mulkammar) 500 / 500
Beans 500 / 250
Broad beans 320 / 250
Cabbage 120 / 180
Carrot 220 / 160
Cauliflower 110 / 80
Cucumbers (large) 100 / 50
Cucumbers (small) 100 / 50
Eggplant 160 / 70
Garlic (green) 320 / 250
Lemon 600 / 500
Marrow (large) 100 / 50
Marrow (small) 170 / 120
Onions (dry) 140 / 80
Onions (green) 150 / 100
Oranges 400 / 250
Peas 720 / 620
Pepper (red) 330 / 260
Pepper (black) 280 / 220
Potato 210 / 150
Radish 150 / 100
Sage 170 / 80
Tomato 100 / 80

Home News

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 1992 3



JORDAN CELEBRATES REVOLT — Jordan today (Wednesday) celebrates Army and Great Arab Revolt Day, a revolt led by the late Sharif Hussein Ben Ali earlier this century to fulfill the aspirations of the Arab nation in liberation, independence and unity. On the eve of the anniversary, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, paid tribute to the late Sharif Hussein for his endeavours to serve his nation and his effort to provide protection to the holy places of Palestine and Jerusalem and his relentless drive to bring about liberation to the Arab world from French and British colonial rule. (See p. 5). Jordan, which inherited the Great Arab



Revolt, its principles and objectives, is still striving to achieve those same goals in cooperation with the Arab states, said Petra. Following in the footsteps of his ancestors and his grandfather, the late King Abdullah, founder of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, His Majesty King Hussein has given due care and concern to the Jordanian Armed Forces, continuously providing these forces with the means to provide protection to the homeland, said Petra. In the course of achieving this goal, the agency said, King Hussein created Muta University with its military institute to train and turn out capable and efficient officers to lead the Arab forces towards



achieving the objectives of the Great Arab revolt. Petra said that the Royal Court Tuesday received cables of good wishes addressed to King Hussein and the Hashemite family from heads and representatives of various public and private sectors in Jordan. The cables, which included those sent by the prime minister and other dignitaries, voiced support for the King's continued endeavours to confront the Zionist plots and end injustice to the Palestinian people. Petra said that the cables paid tribute to the King for his call on the Arab states to transcend splits and differences created by the Gulf crisis and to unite their ranks in a



drive to seek a just and durable peace in the Middle East region. Also on the eve of the anniversary, Field Marshal Fathi Abu Taleb, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of The Jordanian Armed Forces, sent a cable to King Hussein reaffirming the allegiance of the Armed Forces to the Hashemite throne and paying tribute to the leaders of the Great Arab Revolt who led the struggle for freedom for the Arab world. On the occasion, all government departments and public institutions will remain closed Wednesday and will also close Thursday through Monday as a public holiday marking the Eid Al Adha (feast of sacrifice).

Ancient theatre to resound with contemporary sound of Lebanese musician, Marcel Khalifeh

By Ica Wahbeh

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The musician who rejects labels, does not believe in "artificial" symbols and professes a human approach to his art, the Lebanese Marcel Khalifeh, is in Amman for the second time to perform in front of an audience that holds him in awe.

"I live the life of a normal Arab citizen. Whatever I feel I translate into music," he says trying to dispel the myth of a super hero, of a person living in his ivory tower.

"My ambitions are simple, nothing philosophical. All our life is sad. We cry, have problems, worry. Every parting could be the last one; even sending our children to school is done with a sense of finality. I ask for little. I want to preserve life and find happiness."

Little indeed, but not much so when living in war-torn Lebanon and with the intensity that seems to pervade the little frame of the artist who gesticulates when talking, wringing his hands, trying to convey his feelings expressively.

In town for a few days, with his 30-member group Al Mayadeen, Mr. Khalifeh is performing between June 10-13 at the Roman Amphitheatre in downtown Amman for, again, a humanitarian cause. Jordan Sports Federation for the Handicapped has organised the event whose proceeds will go to the handicapped.

The concert will have, according to the artist, both old and new songs. The new ones, he says, are going to be more violent. "We can never say no. We have been trampled on for so long. At least in songs we have the power to say no," Mr. Khalifeh says, adding that a strong reaction and in-

teraction from and with the audience is expected. What the group wants, Mr. Khalifeh says, is to change the sentimentalism of the Arabic songs. "We will be more aggressive, we will shout in our new songs." Poets whose verses Mr. Khalifeh has put in music include Lebanese, Tala'i Haydar and Mohammad Abdallah, and Palestinian, Mahmoud Darwish.

While calling their songs nationalistic, but "not inflammatory," Mr. Khalifeh strongly affirms his creed: "I am not a touristic artist. I do not sing for towns, I sing for people, about people." It is also an assertion that tries to absolve the musicians of the "guilt" of not singing, as one reporter put it, for Amman, Beirut, or some other "convenient" town.

"We touch on a variety of themes and sing for a variety of causes: Lebanese, Palestinian, Arab. We sing for people from all walks of life: a driver, a grocer, a revolutionary. But I do not believe in certain symbols. I am not concerned about the new world order. I care for people."

Asked about the projects and music for the future, Mr. Khalifeh talked about traditions; popular or religious, he says traditions are used for his "new style" music. His music, known as the new song for some time, "has become old. Let's just call it song," he says, reiterating that music is his life, that the song is "the easiest way to be near people."

The issue of intifada not having been present enough in his songs is presented by Mr. Khalifeh as a technical problem and not one of uninvolved. "Art can never reach and represent the intensity of real life. The artist tries to equal life in his/her representations, but it is not easy. But it is not true we did not sing



Marcel Khalifeh

enough about the children of the stone," Mr. Khalifeh says enumerating quite a few titles of songs dedicated to the intifada.

The musician, born in the village of Amsit, just north of Beirut, explains how the songs came into being. "I would like a poem and put it into music. No poet wrote especially for me. I did not even know any until recently when I came to know some. But my music is an easy vehicle for the poems. The audience takes (absorbs) the poetry easier from my music."

Amid the questions asked by the journalists, the one regarding the entrance fees seemed to elicit the most talk. Defending the price (JD 7, not much higher than a sophisticated hamburger at a fancy restaurant), a spokesman explained that the group subsists on its music and that it never performed but for a humanitarian cause.

"We do not have a salary at the end of the month. And we do not have an institution supporting us. Even singing for free would request lots of permissions from lots of ministries, a task not easy to take to an end," he said, adding that paying all legal dues and transportation is the group's responsibility.

"Even a video of our performance has to be paid for by us," was another statement, which brought up the issue of piracy and lack of copy rights in Arab countries. But that was not as bitterly resented by the artists as their inability to get visas to "some Arab countries, where maybe Jews would get in without any problem."

Whatever the problems they face or faced, the musicians remain committed to translating into music their feelings and experiences. And to serving the cause of the people they represent and from whose traditions they draw their roots.



JORDANIAN PRODUCTS ON EXHIBIT — Under the patronage of His Excellency Dr. Abdullah Essour and deputising for him, Dr. Marwan Al Awad opened an exhibition at the Plaza Hotel. The exhibition contains displays of leather goods, embroidery, upholstery, accessories, glassware and marble. Thirty companies are participating in the exhibit which portrays the advancement of the Jordanian product.

Arab Doctors Union to attend human rights meeting in Libya

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Committee for Human Rights will discuss in its meeting issues such as human rights and the new world order, human rights in the Third World and the Arab democratic model.

The committee will also discuss the importance of a new international order for human rights, changing means and procedures for preserving human rights, reforming the United Nations' system and finding an international judicial system for combating terrorism, Dr. Khreis added.

Dr. Khreis said that the union will also be presented at a celebration by President Qadhafi with a human rights award which is devoted this year to the establishment of an international centre for combating AIDS.

He said that the International



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Shows: GHOST, 4:30, 6:30

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(Arabic)
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By Dr. Abdalla Malki

Jordan Times

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Economic Forum

The financial and real economy

Although it was a setback to Jordan and its economy in many aspects, the Gulf crisis was, in financial terms, a blessing in disguise. Related inflows of foreign aid tided the treasury over lean times and returned remittances served to boost the foreign exchange reserves of the Kingdom.

Before the crisis, Jordan's foreign aid targets did not go beyond acquiring a maximum of \$200-300 million of Arab aid per annum. During 1991, the government received some \$900 in outright grants and extremely soft loans. More is bound to follow in the current year.

It is widely acknowledged that the Gulf crisis and the ensuing demographic movements in the area, together with the blockade on Iraq, generated certain parallel flows of foreign currencies to Jordan or through it during the last 22 months. Those flows have been strengthening Jordan's balance of payments and augmenting our foreign exchange reserves. The extent of this favourable impact is greater than what is suggested by published figures because an important part of these flows is unrecorded and can not consequently be reflected in official data.

Understandable, this financial "abundance" has created an

atmosphere of sanguinity within the ranks of political and economic leadership. Public finances are relaxed and Jordan is looking with hope to the future. If these favourable trends are to continue into 1993, in terms of foreign aid and capital inflows, there will be a very good reason for optimism.

But there should not be any reasons for overoptimism or a tendency on the part of economic managers to expect that somebody or something will do the trick for us all along. We are still talking about financial achievements; the real economic facts are something different.

In real economic terms, however, the Jordanian economy is still marred, let us remember, by what is termed the three cardinal economic plagues, namely unemployment, sluggish or low growth and inflation. The accumulation of foreign exchange does not solve any of them. These reserves are merely a poor sort of investment abroad which create jobs only for foreigners. Wiping out the budget deficit heralds only the setting of the stage for the start of work to tackle these problems.

The Jordanian economy has proved so far that it is resilient and strong enough to tolerate the very burdensome load of these vices. There is only one reasonable explanation for that:

Jordanians are living on their savings. It is from these savings that they finance the rises in the costs of living as their real incomes are stationary or increasing at a rate less than the rate of inflation. Unemployed labourers draw on the pennies that they saved for these rainy days; alternatively they are shielded by the extended family.

But the tolerance of the Jordanian economy is not limitless. The national savings are also exhaustible. Their basic and normal task is to finance investment not consumption otherwise the structure of the Jordanian economy will be seriously enfeebled.

One really hopes that the present optimism which overhangs the economic stage thanks to financial abundance will not blur our vision or tempt us to stay relaxed. There is a lot to be done. It is our impression that if things remain favourable during the next 15 months, the Jordanian economy will make it. We are still talking about the continuation of foreign aid and attraction of capital thanks to the ongoing process of payment liberalisation. If the financial prosperity is to be fruitful, it has to be backed by a matching success in the real economic world, such as investment, exports and import substitution.

Kuwait's wrong track

KUWAITI NEWSPAPERS' attacks on His Majesty King Hussein in particular and Jordan as a whole bear the hallmark of a government that cannot forgive anybody, be they brothers or friends, for calling the spade a spade during the Gulf crisis. At the root of the new wave of slander against Jordan is the continued and totally unjustified vindictiveness of the Kuwaiti leaders especially against those who paid with sweat and blood the price of building Kuwait.

Surely the darkness that permeated the minds of those who wrote and published defamatory remarks about Jordan cannot reach such low level as to deny the Jordanian military contributions during the earlier Iraqi-Kuwaiti conflict when the troops of the late Iraqi leader Abdul Karim Kassim had threatened the well-being and independence of Kuwait. Jordan then was in the forefront of those Arab states that rushed to rescue Kuwait from the Iraqi designs out of respect for Arab ideals and principles that no Arab state may attack another Arab state and occupy it by force no matter what the historical pretexts may have been.

As for the new Kuwait in the wake of the Gulf war, it is common knowledge that its human rights' record towards the Palestinians and Jordanians and others who actually played a pivotal role in constructing modern Kuwait was indeed a dismal one that tarnished the image of Arabs everywhere. How can the leaders of Kuwait explain and condone the way they had treated all the Arab and non-Arab communities which had made Kuwait their home for decades without ever attaining any degree of civil or political rights as if they were expendable commodities.

On the other hand, those Kuwaiti journalists who go as far as casting doubt and suspicion over the history of this country should very well know that Jordanians have been at the forefront of every effort to serve pan-Arabism and its noble goals. Jordanians paid with their blood to save Palestine and other Arab lands from the designs and aggression of others. The contemporary record of Jordan is matched only by the historical record of Sharif Hussein Ibn Ali who launched the Great Arab Revolt to liberate the homeland from occupation and colonialism.

Events did not happen always to our liking, as the Kuwaiti journalists themselves know. But the spirit of Jordan never faltered. It stayed on course unimpeded by the designs of foreign powers and the hatred or envy of rich brothers. It is this same spirit that cried out against the Gulf war and against the expulsion of thousands of Palestinians and Jordanians from Kuwait, and it is the same spirit that the Kuwaiti rulers and their mouthpieces are attacking so vigorously these days.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL DUSTOUR daily commented on the four Arab ministers' meeting in Amman to discuss the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations and said that such meetings are of vital importance for solidarity among Arab states prior to the coming round of negotiations in Rome. The paper said that the four ministers have set the tone for yet more enlarged meetings among Arab ministers to discuss the situation in view of Israel's intransigence. Such meetings are of utmost importance if the Arabs are to unite their position vis-a-vis Israel's obstinacy and its rejection of U.N. resolutions and the international legitimacy, said the paper. It said that coordination among the Arab parties is bound to help unite the Arabs and enable them to better present their case to the world. Israel, said the paper, continues to reject any exchange of land for peace in the course of implementing U.N. resolutions and continues to reject any just peace with the Arabs. Furthermore, Israel rejects any bid to implement U.N. Security Council Resolution 425, on withdrawal from Lebanon, and the four ministers' final statement was careful to mention these facts and to demand that the world community in general and the Security Council in particular take speedy steps to force Israel to comply with the requirements of peace, the paper added. The paper said that the meeting marked another milestone on the part of the Arab confrontation states to reestablish solidarity among the Arabs in order to ensure more support for their joint efforts in the peace process and in regaining Arab rights and lands.

A COLUMNIST in Sawt Al Shaab daily defended Jordan's position in the face of the onslaught launched through hostile campaigns against the Kingdom by Gulf states media. Salameh Ekour said that those undertaking the hostile campaigns are Arabs who stabbed their nation in the back and are seeking protection from the foreign nations and the colonial powers which are intent on looting Arab oil wealth. Calling the Gulf regimes dummies in the band of the foreign nations, the writer said that they had unleashed their media to spread insults and curses left and right against all decent and honest people of the Arab Nation because these regimes are blinded by the fire of the burning oil and are blinded by arrogance. Perhaps these regimes are terrified of the democratic system that is blossoming in Jordan and threatening to affect other parts of the Arab World. Jordan is being attacked by these regimes simply because it stood firm in the face of any foreign intervention, calling for an Arab solution to the Kuwaiti question and because it rejected the idea of stationing foreign troops on Arab land, said the writer. Jordan, he added, has refused to go astray like the other Arabs who backed the colonialists and those who chose to stab their brothers in the back. In addition to the attacks, said the writer, the Kuwaitis decided to evict 300,000 Palestinians who had built the emirate from scratch over the past four decades. But, he said Jordan is ready to welcome all the Arabs and to give them shelter when fleeing such atrocities like those committed by some Arabs who fear democracy and justice.

Arab Americans active at all levels of political process

By Rosalind Mandine

WASHINGTON — Arab Americans are actively involved at all levels of the 1992 election campaigns, reflecting an all-out effort by the community to solidify its position in the U.S. political process.

Arab American leaders emphasize that the community should be a bi-partisan community by getting involved in both the Democratic and Republican parties.

"We need to have influence on both sides," James Zogby, the president of the Arab American Institute (AAI), said in a briefing on the elections June 3.

Mr. Zogby noted that an increasing number of local campaign coordinators for the candidates are Arab Americans, including those responsible for Governor Clinton's campaigns in Dallas, Texas, and in Jacksonville, Florida, and for President Bush's campaign in Dearborn, Flint and Detroit, Michigan.

Getting Arab Americans elected as delegates to local, state and national party conventions, which will ultimately nominate the presidential candidates, is a major goal for the community in

1992, he said.

AAI has focused on the research, training and political organization needed to support Arab Americans running for delegate slots and has town meetings in 11 cities throughout the United States to assist the community in this process.

According to AAI, approximately 350 Arab Americans have won delegate slots at the local and state levels, with concentrations in Texas, Iowa, California, Michigan, Florida and Virginia, and approximately 30 more Arab Americans have been elected to attend the national Republican and Democratic party conventions this summer.

These numbers "reflect in the institutionalization of Arab Americans into the process," Mr. Zogby said.

Another important venue for influence in the Democratic Republic parties is through the platform committees — where the parties' policies on domestic and foreign issues are debated and formulated. AAI officials have noted that Arab Americans have succeeded in getting the community's voice heard on issues of concern.

Arab Americans are seeking

"to shape the debate" on such issues of concern as the U.S. Middle East policy, Mr. Zogby said.

According to AAI, Democratic and Republican party platform resolutions on the Middle East have been passed at the local level in Iowa, Texas, Washington and Maine. These resolutions, which call for a negotiated peace settlement based on land for peace, will also be considered in the state conventions of these four states, as well as in Minnesota, South Dakota, Virginia and Michigan.

On a national level, Arab American leaders have presented their communities' views on domestic and foreign policy issues to the national parties. James Zogby addressed the Democratic Platform Committee in May and George Salem, co-founder of AAI, spoke to the Republican Platform Committee in early June.

Mr. Zogby noted that Arab Americans are "involved state-by-state with (Democratic) party leadership to come up with compromise language" on the Middle East for the platform. The AAI has submitted platform planks to the Democratic National Con-

vention on immigrant rights, ethnic discrimination, the Middle East peace process, foreign policy, and Lebanon.

Mr. Salem said that the Republicans' platform plank on the Middle East will be prepared by Secretary of State James Baker.

Democratic and Republican Party leaders have underscored the importance of Arab Americans getting involved in the process and have noted that their parties are open to this involvement.

During AAI's leadership conference in January, the chairman of the Democratic National Committee, Ron Brown, and the chair of the National Republican Congressional Committee, E. Spencer Abraham, spoke about Arab Americans in the political process.

The mere presence of the leaders from the two major political parties at the AAI conference marked a milestone for Arab American involvement in the political process, Mr. Zogby said.

"We're part of the debate and respected as part of the party. Years ago no one in the party would meet with us. It is a new period for us," he said.

Mr. Brown underscored that as

chairman of the Democratic National Committee he has "attempted to reach out to the Arab American community" and be called on the community to "get organized and get involved."

"If you don't participate you don't have a right to complain ... Get involved at all political levels," he said.

Mr. Abraham, who is of Lebanese ancestry, stressed that "the door in the Republican Party is open as wide as it can conceivably be" to the involvement of Arab Americans at all levels of the campaign. He noted that the Republican Party is organizing an Arab American committee for the Bush-Quayle campaign.

Mr. Abraham encouraged Arab Americans to run for political office and get involved in raising funds and managing campaigns.

According to AAI, 54 Arab American candidates are running for local, state and national offices in the 1992 elections.

As an example for the Arab American community growing in strength and organization, Mr. Zogby pointed to Representative Mary Rose Oakar's recent primary election victory as the Demo-

cratic candidate from her district in Ohio. In the wake of her involvement in the check-bouncing scandal in the House of Representatives, Mr. Zogby noted, Ms. Oakar "was threatened for the first time with a close race."

However, Ms. Oakar fought for her position by stressing her record in the Congress and the Arab American community "rallied behind her," he said.

AAI registered thousands of Arab American voters and the Arab American community in Ohio "raised a lot of money" for her campaign, Mr. Zogby said.

But even when Arab American candidates lose, the community wins, Mr. Zogby pointed out that while the five Arab American candidates in California lost their primary elections, they represented a record number of candidates for the community in that state. In addition, the five candidates all got over 10,000 votes in their individual races, and three of them lost by only 1,000 to 2,500 votes, he said.

These numbers demonstrate "an Arab American community that is moving toward political empowerment," Mr. Zogby stressed — United States Information Agency (USIA).

Fate of EC union plans in hands of Irish voters

By Simon Alterman
Reuters

DUBLIN — The fate of the European Community will be in the hands of the Irish people when they vote in a referendum on the Maastricht Treaty next week.

Following the shock rejection of the treaty by Danish voters last week, a "no" victory in Ireland on June 18 would destroy plans of the other 11 EC states to press ahead with ratification in the hope the Danes will change their minds.

"Another rejection will kill the

"Another rejection will kill the treaty stone dead. It's impossible to imagine the 10 being able to carry on. It really will be back to the drawing board. In normal circumstances, a resounding 'yes' to the political and monetary union treaty would be a foregone conclusion."

treaty stone dead," an EC official said. "It's impossible to imagine the 10 being able to carry on. It really will be back to the drawing board."

In normal circumstances, a resounding "yes" to the political and monetary union treaty would be a foregone conclusion. Two previous referendums produced majorities of 83 per cent in 1972 to take Ireland into the community and 69.9 per cent in 1987 to approve the Single European Act, the EC's last major constitutional overhaul.

Unlike Denmark and Britain, which joined the EC at the same time, Ireland has no strong, long-standing current of anti-community feeling.

A glance at the figures helps to explain why. Transfers from Brussels to

Dublin in agricultural subsidies and development aid account for seven to eight per cent of Ireland's gross domestic product, the value of all goods and services it produces.

The government of Prime Minister Albert Reynolds has been trumpeting the figure of six billion pounds (\$10 billion) which Ireland would receive from the proposed doubling of aid to the poorest EC members in a five-year budget plan.

Finance Minister Bertie Ahern said Irish interest rates would be much lower if the single currency Maastricht foresees by 1999 were already in place.

"If we had a European central bank now, our rates would be 2.5 per cent lower. That's why I'm pro-Maastricht," he told visiting reporters last week.

That is because for now, Ireland and most other EC countries have to keep their rates above Germany's, whose currency anchors the European monetary system. And German rates are high because of the inflationary impact of unification spending.

Opponents of the treaty form an unlikely coalition of traditional anti-Europeans, who fear Irish neutrality in a political union and believe in economic nationalism, and activists at both extremes of the abortion debate. Bewilderingly, the two latter groups argue opposite cases — that EC law will undermine the country's ban on abortion or that the treaty will cement that ban in place.

The latest opinion poll gave the government a majority of about 60 per cent in favour of ratification — identical to forecasts at a

similar stage of the Danish campaign.

Mr. Reynolds, pointing to Ireland's tradition of links to Europe, is confident that the Danish result will jolt the Irish into a strong "yes" vote.

"We're pro-European from 30 years back. We know where our best future lies," he said.

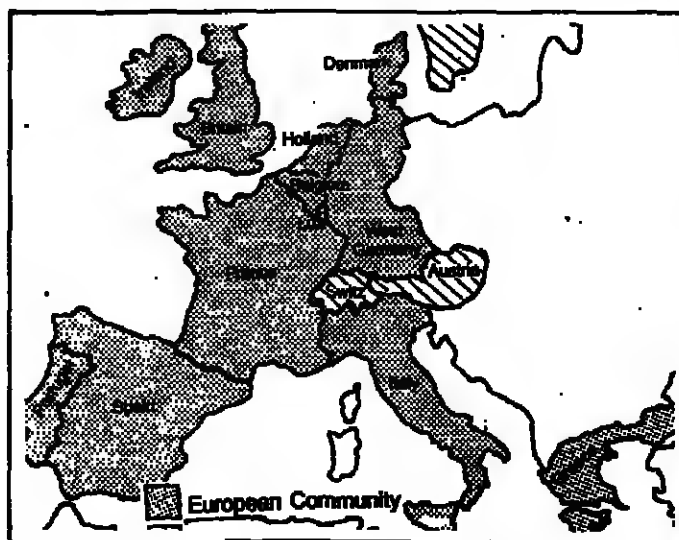
But three possible threats to a "yes" vote loom.

First, the abortion issue, which remains explosive despite his promise to hold a separate referendum later this year. Indicating his concern, Mr. Reynolds argued both that Maastricht and abortion must be kept apart, and that women should know that a "yes" vote on June 18 would be interpreted by the government as confirming the right of women to travel abroad for abortions.

The second threat is the "Ross Perot" factor, named after the maverick U.S. presidential candidate who has tapped a vein of disaffection. Like Mr. Perot fans and Danish voters, the Irish may vote "no" to shock a largely pro-Maastricht political establishment.

Thirdly, the Danish vote may have undermined Mr. Reynolds' central campaign theme — that poor Ireland cannot afford to be marginalised in the EC by rejecting the treaty.

Had Denmark voted "yes", that case might have frightened Irish waverers into following suit. But now, though a "no" victory would damage Ireland's image, doubters can be sure that by voting down the treaty they can bury it for good.



Islamic groups reject West, embrace free market

By John West
Reuters

CAIRO — Iran has privatised a string of state sector companies and set up a booming stock exchange.

Sudan's radical Islamic government recently devalued its currency by 300 per cent and slashed state subsidies on foodstuffs to try to control its budget deficit.

Algeria's Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) made overtures to businessmen before the government prevented it from winning elections in January.

Across the Muslim world, fundamentalists are locked in battle against what they say are imported western values. But when it comes to economics, they may find themselves on the same side as the West.

"No state can progress by central planning," said Youssef Al Gammal, a professor of Islamic economics speaking on behalf of Egypt's influential Muslim Brothers. "This kills the individual and it kills religion."

Muslim scholars say their religion has always encouraged free trade tempered by social justice. Islam first appeared in the trading city of Mecca and the Prophet Muhammad himself was a successful merchant.

The Koran, the Islamic scripture, states: "O ye who believe, do not waste your money vainly between yourselves, but let there be trade amongst you with mutual goodwill."

Many governments in the Arab World, by contrast, control their countries' economies centrally in one way or another.

Some, for instance in Algeria and Egypt, have started reform programmes. But they have not yet dismantled the vast, inefficient public sectors inherited from decades of Socialism and secular nationalism.

Even Gulf Arab states, which in theory espouse the free market, still keep a tight grip on the oil-related revenues which dominate their economies.

Islamic fundamentalists, in line with most Muslim authorities, say that interest in the Western sense is banned. Many Islamic banks have sprung up in recent years to handle savings and loans in other ways.

On the other hand, the only tax mentioned in basic Islamic texts is "zakat", a 2.5 per cent income tax to be distributed among the poor.

Some fundamentalist groups in the 1970s and 1980s, such as the Mujahideen Khalq (holy war-

riors of the people) in Iran, drew their inspiration from Islamic beliefs about social justice and espoused Socialist-style economics.

But the collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union since 1989 has discredited "Islamic socialism" as much as its secular counterpart and the trend in doctrine is now firmly the other way, towards the free market.

"Islamic movements in Iran, Sudan and Pakistan have been backed by rich businessmen and professional classes who see the struggle against the West largely in cultural terms."

"You can understand why in Iran the bazaar (merchants) backed the revolution," said Fehmi Hawwadi, an Egyptian commentator on Islamic movements. "Many of them had been excluded by corruption under the shah."

Even if Islamic governments came to power believing in the ideology of the free market, there

would still be no shortage of material for economic disputes with the West.

Leaders of Algeria's FIS said they would not honour debts incurred by the current government.

Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood spokesman Mr. Gammal said Islam allowed companies which explored for and produced oil to earn profits on their investment but the current balance of trade between the West and the Third World was unjust.

"Why are raw materials getting cheaper every year and finished goods more expensive?" he asked. "Who produces which?"

In the long run, he said, the economic status quo could not be sustained as an ever poorer South would be unable to buy the North's goods, setting off a world economic crisis.

"The aim is freedom in Islam, but with justice... in the West, your aim is freedom but justice is sleeping."

LETTERS

Legitimate aspirations

To the Editor:

In regard to Randa Habib's article Jordan Times, May 30, titled "Ruling and Overruling" and Imad Awadallah Hussein's letter to the editor (Jordan Times, June 7), I would only like to add that any political party is defined as an organisation whose purpose is to gain legitimate control of the government.

Political parties are a vital element of democracy because they link the voter to the government, define policy alternatives and transmit public opinion from the citizens level to the level of leadership. Hence, these are the goals of all political parties, all over the world, and these ambitions are not particularly inherent in any specific party.

E. Yaghi,
Amman

(The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and, preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.)

From Mecca to Jerusalem Sharif Hussein led the Great Arab Revolt

Sharif donated 25,000 gold coins for Al Aqsa



Sharif Hussein Bin Ali while in exile in Cyprus in 1929.

Sharif Hussein Bin Ali was born in Istanbul in 1856. He declared the revolt against the Ottoman Empire on the 9th of Shaban 1334 A.H. (June 10, 1916). He visited Amman in 1924 and was proclaimed Caliph. As a result of his well-known dispute with the British over the Palestinian cause, Britain sent him an ultimatum to leave Agaba where he was staying after abdicating the throne of the Hijaz in favour of his eldest son, King Ali Ibn Hussein.

Two destroyers to enforce the ultimatum and he left on board one of them for Cyprus on June 17, 1925. He returned to Amman from his exile very ill in 1931 and died in the same year.

Sharif Hussein Bin Ali had four sons: Ali, Abdullah, Feisal and Zaid. Three of them became kings: Ali, King of the Hijaz, Abdullah, King of Jordan and Feisal, King of Syria, then Iraq. Each played an important role in making the Arab Revolt a success.

When Hussein Bin Ali started the Arab Revolt, the

British promised him independence for all the Arab countries, not excluding Palestine (Treaty of Hussein/McMahon). He and his sons fulfilled their side of the agreement until the allies were victorious over their opponents. However, the British government issued the Balfour Declaration, giving a homeland to the Jews in Palestine. As a result of that, when Britain asked him to sign a treaty granting Britain a special status in Palestine, he declared:

"The British government has offered me a treaty, the conditions of which do not tally with promises they have given me regarding independence. I have therefore introduced some clauses which emphasise the total independence of Palestine and the Palestinian people's right to direct control and to choose their own government. I declare the Balfour Declaration to be null and I confirm that if the British government does not accept these alterations, I will not sign this treaty."

Sharif Hussein Bin Ali was a great nationalist and patriot

and paid the price for his principles as shown by his exile.

Among his achievements was that he supported the renovation of Al Aqsa Mosque. In 1925 a delegation headed by the late Al Haj Said Al Shawwa (a member of the Higher Islamic Council of Palestine) and Sheikh Mohammad Tufaha Al Hussein, the mufti of Nablus, asked for his help. He gave 25,000 dinars of pure gold for this purpose. The donation is registered in the files of the Higher Islamic Council of Palestine as taking place during the time of Al Haj Amin Al Hussein.

After his death, official and unofficial delegations from all over the Islamic and Arab World came to attend his funeral. This event inspired the feelings of poets and authors to write about his qualities.

The above is an extract from the book: *Amman Yesterday and Today* by Arslan Ramadan Bakig.



The funeral of Sharif Hussein Bin Ali in Amman in 1931.



The funeral procession of Sharif Hussein Bin Ali in front of the Damascus Gate in Jerusalem before his burial in the sacred sanctuary of Omar.

King gives personal funds for holy places

(Continued from page 1)

Yoshua in the Balqa region in central Jordan as well as the grand mosque of Irbid in the north.

"This good land visited by the Prophet and his companions who fell as martyrs while upholding the standards of faith will always remain faithful to the vanguards of Islam and will serve as a great witness to their glorious feats," the King said.

King Hussein recalled that in 1984 he had instructed the government to set up a special committee to take charge of restoring the tombs and shrines of the companions of the Prophet and renowned martyrs of Islam buried in Jordan, and to build mosques on their tombs. He said that he also allocated his own annual salary for this noble project.

King Hussein said that he was confident that men and women of Jordan are also keen on contributing towards this noble cause.

He said that numerous Jordanians had contributed and still contribute generously towards building educational institutions, places of worship and clinics, and they are to be thanked for their noble act.

In reply, the prime minister said that the King's directives "reflected the Hashemite family's keenness on safeguarding the shrines of these great men."

The prime minister recalled the King's earlier decision to allocate funds for the restoration of the Dome of the Rock and the Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem as his true commitment to the principle of safeguarding the holy places.

Sharif Zeid said that he did not doubt that the Jordanian people will follow in the footsteps of their leader and will respond promptly to the call for contributing towards the noble cause.

The prime minister proposed the formation of a royal commission to take charge of the implementation of the project.

Egyptian writer shot dead in Cairo

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Fodah died from massive internal injuries and bleeding. Abmad was in stable condition from wounds in the thigh and back. Mr. Fodah's friend, Wahid Raafat, was released from a hospital after treatment for minor injuries.

The last major attack attributed to them was Oct. 12, 1990, an ambush on a downtown Cairo street in which motorcyclists killed Parliament Speaker Rifaat Al Mahjoub and five others.

Hala Mustafa, a writer and political analyst at the Al Aqam Centre for Strategic Studies, said the attack on Mr. Fodah was especially worrying.

"This is a dangerous precedent. It means the violence... was gone beyond the regime and the politicians," Ms. Mustafa said. "The charge now is secularism. They condemn anyone who thinks differently from them. That is very dangerous."

Mr. Fodah was loudly critical of Islamic extremism as practiced by the Jamaat Islamiya (Islamic Groups). In his writings, he called them Jamaat Zalamiya (groups of darkness).

He wrote weekly sarcastic essays every week in the government magazine October that always took potshots at the Islamic groups. He was a professor of agricultural economy and authored five books about politics, secularism and Islamic extremism.

His last article, published on Sunday, said the Tunisian government had videotaped fundamentalist leaders having sex with beautiful women on prayer rugs.

"The forces of darkness are obsessed with sex," he wrote ridiculing a militant group in Assiut, southern Egypt, for banning aubergines and marrows because of supposed sexual connotations.

PLO hopes France will try killers

(Continued from page 1)

porting the Labour Party's strong challenge to Mr. Shamir's Likud government.

Meir Kahane founded the radical Jewish Defence League; he was killed in New York City in 1990.

Three PLO leaders have been slain over the past four years.

Mr. Bseiso, who reported directly to Mr. Arafat, had run the PLO's day-to-day security affairs since security chief Salah Khalaf was assassinated by a turncoat bodyguard in January

1991. Mr. Bseiso, married with three young children, was born in 1948 in Gaza. His family fled months later because of the Arab-Israeli war.

Israeli experts and newspapers offered no firm information about who assassinated Mr. Bseiso, but speculated about Israeli intelligence or Palestinian hard-

liners. They scoffed at the claims of responsibility made by two Jewish extremist groups.

"They are jokers," Ariel Merari, a terrorism expert at Tel Aviv University said of the anonymous telephoned claim. He said they lacked the knowhow to carry out Monday's slaying.

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A copy of a historic document, the text of a letter from the Sharif of Mecca, King Hussein Ben Ali, written in 1917. He directs Prince Faisal and Prince Abdul Aziz Al Jurba to protect members of the Armenian community and to allow them to take up residence as being free non-Muslim citizens. This was after they had suffered the massacre of 1915. The document was published in the Lebanese journal "Al Shira" number 109, Monday 16 April 1984.

Save water... every drop counts!

هلنا من اصل

Sweden and France roll out the super-guns

STOCKHOLM (R) — Hosts Sweden and group one favorites France will each roll out their own super-gun when they face each other in the opening match of the European Soccer championship today.

Swedish hopes of glory rest squarely on the strike power of young forward Tomas Brodin, nicknamed "Baby Bomber," while France rely as ever on their unique smart weapon, European player of the year Jean-Pierre Papin.

In a match which looks likely to be dominated by well entrenched defenses, the ability of Brodin and Papin to exploit the slightest chink in the opposition's armour could be decisive.

Home coach Tommy Svensson believes his team, boosted by the intimidating roar of 28,000 fans in Stockholm's tiny Rasunda Stadium, could carry Sweden to a first taste of success since reaching the 1958 World Cup final, also played on home soil. Sweden flopped badly in the

1990 World Cup in Italy, losing all three group games, but new coach Svensson has since rejuvenated the team and tightened up at the back.

The Sweden have conceded just two goals in their last six warm-up matches. "On top form, we are capable of beating anybody," Svensson said.

Brodin, who despite his team's indifferent showing in Italy, was showered with praise for his speed, nose for goal and incisive shot, has been in good form this

season, helping Parma to lift the Italian Cup with a victory over Juventus in the final.

scorer of nine goals in 16 matches for his country, Brodin and his midfield suppliers Anders Limpar of Arsenal and Jonas Thoremark of Benfica will be the team's main weapons.

Svensson may not dare breathe the name of Papin, who has struck 13 goals in his 10 last games for France, for fear of panicking his inexperienced central defence of Jan Eriksson and

Patrik Andersson.

The AC Milan-bound striker showed he has overcome an ankle injury when he netted against the Dutch in a friendly last Friday.

After earning themselves the unwelcome tag of title favourites with a record eight wins out of eight in the qualifiers, France have marking time since and are without a win in four friendlies this year.

Papin may be alarmed by a lack of creativity in midfield,

once the great strength of the national side, and the first warning of holes appearing in defence.

"There are two ways of approaching this match," he said. "One is to say, oh no, this is the opening match of the European Championship and to feel under pressure."

"The second is to think, oh yes, it's great to be here in front of millions of television viewers. It's good for our image. The second is my approach."

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



Greeks still bitter at losing next Olympics

ATHENS (R) — The Olympic flame was ceremonially handed over in Athens Monday — but not without a sharp reminder from Greek Olympic chief Lamis Nikolaou his country was still bitter at losing the bid to stage the next games.

At one stage, Greece had been favourite to host the 1996 Olympics, the 100th anniversary of the modern games, but lost out to Atlanta, Georgia.

"I consider it my duty to publicly express this great bitterness felt by the Greeks, who are remembered every four years only because of the Olympic flame," Nikolaou said.

"But we are not resentful," he added. "We wish happiness and success to the athletes of the world."

The flame was handed over to Barcelona Olympic officials at a ceremony in Athens' Marble Stadium at the start of a land and sea journey to Barcelona for the games which start July 25.

The flame, enclosed in a brass miner's lamp, will sail the Spanish navy frigate Cathana for the ancient Greek port of Empuries, north of Barcelona.

About 50,000 spectators cheered the captain of Greece's national basketball team, Panayotis Yamakis, as he carried the torch into the floodlit stadium.

"The moment has come to hand over the flame, which symbolises the brotherhood and reconciliation of peoples," said Nikolaou, president of the Greek Olympic Committee, before

giving the torch to Pasqual Maragall, mayor of Barcelona.

Maragall drew cheers from the crowd by beginning his speech in Greek. He also spoke in French, to honour the founder of the modern games, French Baron Pierre de Coubertin, Spanish and Catalan.

"We thank those trusted us to safeguard the flame's journey," Maragall said. "We will guard it vigilantly."

The Marble Stadium, built in 330 B.C. and restored for the first Greek competitions after the flame was driven to the frigate, docked at the port of Piraeus.

The flame, lit with sun's rays Friday, was carried by 367 runners over 267 kilometres to Athens from ancient Olympia, where the games began in 776 B.C. They were abolished in 394 A.D. by Byzantine Emperor Theodosius.

In ancient Greece, runners would announce the start of the Olympics throughout the land and feuding cities would drop their weapons in sacred truce to participate in the games.

About 9,000 people, including International Olympic Committee President Juan Antonio Samaranch, are expected to carry the flame this year, on foot, bicycle and boat.

It will travel another 5,950 kilometres through 652 towns in Spain before it reaches the Olympic stadium, where it will burn three months high in its blazing cauldron for the duration of the summer Olympics.

Courier, Seles turn attention to Wimbledon

PARIS (R) — Jim Courier and Monica Seles have barely had time to digest their French Open victories before turning their thoughts to Wimbledon.

The two-week interval between the two Grand Slam events is a source of dismay to many players who must adjust their game from the slow clay of Paris to the fast grass of London.

"This year, the difficulties of transition are compounded by the Barcelona Olympics — only three weeks after Wimbledon — where the tennis players will have to go back to clay."

Some players are pressing for Wimbledon to be moved back a week in future — a suggestion that is not popular with organisers of the grass-court event.

"I wish there was a bigger gap," said Courier, who was flying home to Florida after his win in the final here to seek out a grass court to practise on.

Winning at Roland Garros almost precludes winning Wim-

bledon.

In the last 30 years only two men and five women have achieved the feat in the same year, the last being German Steffi Graf in 1988, the year she achieved the Grand Slam.

The phenomenal Bjorn Borg won both events three years running, from 1978 to 1980, but for Courier and Seles, neither of them at their happiest on grass, the task looks a lot harder.

Courier's biggest rivals on the grass, defending Wimbledon champion Michael Stich of Germany and former winner Stefan Edberg of Sweden, will probably now see their third-round exits in Paris as an advantage, giving them extra time to readjust to their favourite surface.

German Boris Becker, three times champion at Wimbledon, decided not to play Roland Garros because of injury and is already in grass mode again.

Like Edberg, he is due to play the Queen's Club grass tournament in London this week.

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Can a trick be won too cheaply?

Judge for yourselves.

The hand that had developed at the club between Vladimir Tinkov, the Russian emigre noted for his rapid if incoherent play, and Trump Coup Tommy, who played well only when declaring a hand with an awful trump break, grew more intense with time and this hand did little to ease the animosity. The Russian and his partner arrived at three no trump via an irreproachable auction—Tommy's rebid showed a balanced hand of 18-20 points and

North had no interest beyond game.

Tommy West, made the one lead that no sane defender would have found—a low diamond. Our choice would have been the nine of hearts. Dummy's five fetched the four from East, and declarer promptly placed the two thirdeens. Now Vladimir had a situation he could boast about forever—he had won a trick consisting of the two, three, four and five of a suit to tie a world record.

A diamond to the king revealed the fact the suit was going to produce only three tricks. Declarer could count nine tricks, but there was no entry to dummy to collect the spades. So declarer cashed the queen of spades, overtook the jack and continued with the ace, in the hope of dropping the ten. When that did not happen declarer tried the club finesse. West won and exited with a heart, and declarer had to be satisfied with eight tricks.

As happens so often, careless play to the first trick had cost declarer the contract. Since West surely had not led a singleton diamond, South could have made sure of an entry to dummy by winning that trick with the king of diamonds. After cashing the queen and jack of spades, declarer can get to dummy by continuing with ace of diamonds and another. That way, South would score four spade tricks, three diamonds and the ace in the rounded suits.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY JUNE 10, 1992

By Thomas S. Flanagan, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Study positive to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) A day when you see clearly how some condition which has not been in your life before this will be able to enhance your growth and development soon.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You now have a business day at which you can get much of value done by carrying through with projects already begun and also by looking into advanced ones.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) An outside activity needs to be completed before you will be able to go on to some new public interest that will be very good for you.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Your mind works on organizing practical levels but avoid the actions of others to get fullest right results.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Much conversation with those who like the same recreations as yourself can bring to light what you and they need to do to more thoroughly enjoy yourselves.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Even while in the outside world you should spend sometime today considering what you can do to improve conditions at your residence and with your family.

VERGO: (August 22 to September 22) Consider well your position in the community where you live and

do what you can to improve your image there even though it means some tasks you do not especially like.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) There are some practical matters that have been left undone that require your patient applications early, then you can arrange better systems.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You have a day to consider all aspects of your personal position and after eliminating the things you do not want start replacing them with the desirable.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You have some chores you can get rid of early for then you are in a position to make good progress towards building a new confidential course of action.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) An unfulfilled wish can now be more to operate as you wish after which you can make up your mind the various aims that will activate your enthusiasm.

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Guns quiet in Sarajevo

BELGRADE (R) — Rebel Serb forces laying siege to the Bosnian capital of Sarajevo held their fire on Tuesday to regroup after suffering their first setback in two months of fighting, local reporters said.

Sporadic shooting was heard in the capital but there was no sign of the blistering Serb bombardments of the past three days which cut a swath of death and destruction through the city.

Muslim and Croat defence forces, defying a two-month Serb siege which has 300,000 civilians trapped in desperate conditions, took three hills and parts of a

fourth on Monday in their first serious counter-attack, the reporters said.

The fighting left streets littered with bodies and rubble, and knocked out power for hours. It was the first real setback for the Serb irregulars ringing Sarajevo. Unofficial estimates said dozens of people were killed and more than 350 wounded.

In New York the U.N. Security Council unanimously approved a plan on Monday to send in 1,100 U.N. troops to take control of Sarajevo airport, held by Serb irregulars, to fly in relief supplies.

But the plan requires a durable ceasefire first and that appears a long way off given the intensity of the fighting over the past four days.

The United States said on Monday many civilians were slowly starving to death in Sarajevo, capital of the newly-independent Balkan state of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"Our sources confirm that many people are slowly dying of hunger. Most are reduced to a diet of flour and nettles," said a U.S. State Department spokeswoman.

Local reporters noted the Serbs still have devastating fire-power and strong positions in the hills looking down on the capital. Serb forces could be seen regrouping in the hills, they said.

Muslim and Croat defenders struck out on Monday with heavy weapons and a sustained ground attack, capturing the heights of Vidikovac, Zuc Mojniko and lower slopes of Vraca, local reporters said.

Serb irregular forces acknowledged there had been a major counter-offensive but said they repulsed it and no territory in the city had changed hands.

What caused Yugoslavia's civil war?

THE COLLAPSE of Communism in Eastern Europe led to independence campaigns in Croatia and Slovenia, two of the six former Yugoslav republics. War broke out after the two republics declared independence on June 25, 1991. Fighting quickly died down in Slovenia, but later spread to Croatia. After Croatia, the war moved to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Who is fighting whom?

In Croatia, ethnic Serbs are fighting Croats. In Bosnia-Herzegovina, ethnic Serbs, long backed by the federal Yugoslav army, are pitted against ethnic Croats and Slavic Muslims.

Why are they fighting?

Ethnic Serbs in both Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina oppose the republics' independence. They say they want to remain tied to Serb-led Yugoslavia, which is now composed of only Serbia and its tiny ally Montenegro.

Why is there continuing ethnic rivalry?

Tensions between Croats and Serbs are fanned by memories of the World War II slaughter of Serbs by a Nazi puppet regime in Croatia. During the war, thousands of Croats were also killed by Serbs. Muslims fought both Serbs and Croats in Bosnia-Herzegovina from 1941 to 1945.

How many people have died in the current civil war?

At least 10,000 people have died in Croatia and at least 5,700 in

Bosnia-Herzegovina. But these figures are incomplete.

What is the estimated number of refugees?

An estimated 1.2 million people have fled their homes in Bosnia-Herzegovina; 700,000 others have been displaced in Croatia. Many of the refugees have been driven from their homes by Serb militias in order to create "ethnically clean" areas.

What is the world doing?

For a long time the Western world looked paralysed at what was unfolding in the former six-republic Yugoslav federation. The European Community and, increasingly, the United Nations have tried to mediate the conflict. Many ceasefire pacts have been violated by all sides in the fighting.

What role is the United Nations playing in trying to halt warfare in Bosnia?

The U.S. Security Council on May 30 imposed an economic and oil embargo on Serbia and Montenegro, which it holds responsible for the fighting in Bosnia.

In addition, the Security Council on June 8 approved sending 60 military observers to Sarajevo as a first step towards making relief flights possible to the besieged Bosnian capital.

A 14,000-member U.N. force is being deployed in Croatia, but its job is only to keep a ceasefire established in January.

Amnesty says S. African police implicated in killings

LONDON (R) — Amnesty International alleged on Wednesday that South-African police and military were implicated in recent political killings.

The human rights group said the reform process in South Africa could break down unless the government, which it says has been "at best grossly negligent" takes steps to end the abuses.

"The reforms of the past two years have brought some sweeping changes to South Africa but as far as the security forces are concerned it is business as usual," Amnesty said.

"And all too often that means taking part in political killings or standing by while others massacre political opponents."

The 100-page report gives what Amnesty says is evidence of systematic police and military involvement in torture and assassination in the past two years.

It alleges that security forces "have continued their war against the African National Congress (ANC) and allied organisations — and the government has been slow to react despite the mounting evidence against the police."

Amnesty alleges that where there have been official inquiries they have been "hampered by violence and marked by official

failure to act on their conclusions."

It says police threatened and shot at witnesses during an investigation into police torture and killings in western Transvaal. No prosecutions followed judicial inquiries in 1990 and 1991 into military and police "death squads."

Among incidents on which Amnesty reports in detail was an attack which it says has been conducted by supporters of the Zulu Inkatha movement on Phola squatter camp east of Johannesburg in September 1990 when 80 people were killed.

Amnesty said it had affidavits from 100 witnesses alleging that white men, some wearing balaclavas, led attacks by armed Inkatha supporters.

Witnesses said police "appeared to have taken no serious steps to halt the attacks or to apprehend the attackers."

It alleges that police also stood by when Inkatha supporters killed 80 people in Pietermaritzburg townships in March 1990.

Amnesty said the message received by its representatives in South African townships and squatter camps "was one of enormous frustration, anger and fear."

"The residents felt unprotected

from murderous attacks against them in their homes and while commuting to and from work."

The report said Amnesty representatives met government and police officials in December 1991 and were told that police failure to intervene in political violence or make arrests "reflected their lack of resources, not a lack of will."

10 killed last week

At least 10 people, including a teenager "necklaced" with a burning tyre, were killed in South Africa's black townships in weekend violence, police said on Monday.

Police and the ANC gave differing versions of a clash in Soweto township outside Johannesburg on Sunday in which police shot dead two young ANC members.

Police said they shot the men, aged 20 and 21, when they opened fire on a crowd of 300 blacks who were trying to free a suspected car thief from a police van.

They said the man was arrested while he and two companions pushed a car engine through Soweto on a wheelbarrow. Two of the suspects fled.

British press faces threats of curbs over 'suicide' story

LONDON (R) — Britain's gossip media faced the threat of curbs on Tuesday in a backlash against its reporting of allegations that Princess Diana tried to kill herself.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey, sharply rebuked the media as allegations that Princess Diana "has had a troubled marriage to heir-to-the throne Prince Charles made headlines for a fifth day."

The media had gone beyond the bounds of what "a society claiming to respect basic human values" should observe, said the head of the Church of England.

Editors also came in for savage criticism from the Press Complaints Commission which spoke on Monday of "an odious exhibition of journalists dabbling their fingers in the stuff of other people's souls."

The commission oversees voluntary code of press conduct which the government will review in July, under pressure from members of parliament for new laws to curb media intrusion into private lives.

The cabinet minister responsible, National Heritage Secretary David Mellor, said many people would welcome the commission's statement.

Harrods, the fashionable London department store which is patronised by the royals, said on Monday it would not sell "Diana: Her True Story," the book by Andrew Morton which triggered the frenzy in the British press.

It is being serialised by the Sunday Times and says Princess Diana made five "suicide bids" early in her marriage, on one occasion using a serrated lemon sizer.

Other newspapers have had their own stories about what they say is a troubled union between Princess Diana, 30, and Prince Charles, 42, who had crisis talks on Monday with his mother, Queen Elizabeth.

Sunday Times editor Andrew Neil hit back at critics, saying the king-in-waiting's marriage was a legitimate matter of public interest. He issued a signed statement by a man who was used as a source by Mr. Morton.

The royal "mole" identified himself as James Gilbey, a 35-year-old bachelor who escorted the then Lady Diana Spencer around town before her marriage in 1981.

"I can confirm that the princess discussed with me on numerous occasions her attempted suicides as she has done with other close



Princess Diana

friends," said Mr. Gilbey.

The backlash failed to dent enthusiasm for the story among several tabloids.

"Suicide! Di poured out her heart to me" said the splash in Tuesday's Sun which is owned, like the Sunday Times, by Australian tycoon Rupert Murdoch.

Princess Diana was pictured giving cameramen an icy glare as she took eldest son William, nine, to school.

The 1,000-year-old British monarchy has been shaken by the failure of two royal marriages in recent months — Princess Anne's divorce from husband Mark and Prince Andrew's split from flame-haired "Fergie," the Duchess of York.

Czechoslovak crisis deepens, split looms

PRAGUE, Czechoslovakia (Agencies) — Talks between the two rivals charged with governing Czechoslovakia broke up Tuesday without agreement on how to prevent the country from breaking apart, media reported.

The federation is lost, "Vaclav Klaus, a Czech, was quoted by the state news agency CTK as saying after talks with populist Slovak leader Vladimir Meciar.

Mr. Klaus, the conservative federal finance minister, was tapped as federal premier after weekend parliamentary elections. There was no immediate comment on the talks from Meciar whose party fared strongest in the weekend balloting in Slovakia, the poorer eastern third of the country.

"The talks revealed deep and fundamental differences... on the future structure of Czechoslovakia," Mr. Klaus told reporters.

Mr. Klaus said there would be new talks Thursday on who should sit in the new federal cabinet. It was not immediately clear, however, whether Meciar's movement would designate anybody to take part in the federal government.

Mr. Klaus is a convinced supporter of a continued Czech-Slovak federation and his party won elections in the Czech lands, the most populous western two-thirds of the country, on that programme. He is the driving force behind economic reform, which has caused hardship in Slovakia.

Mr. Meciar, by contrast, campaigned for Slovak sovereignty — one step short of independence — a separate Slovak constitution and a referendum on whether Slovakia breaks away from the federation.

He heads the Movement for a

Democratic Slovakia, or HZDS in Slovak. It won almost 30 per cent of the vote for the regional Slovak parliament. Mr. Meciar said Sunday that the body could declare sovereignty soon after it meets on June 23.

The outcome of the first Klaus-Meciar talks made the future look bleak for President Vaclav Havel, who indicated through his spokesman Monday he will not stand for re-election by the new federal parliament if Czechoslovakia heads for a split.

The spokesman, Michael Zantovsky, told reporters Monday that the president's candidacy depended on the continuation of a common state and economic and political reforms begun with the "velvet revolution" that Mr. Havel led against the communists in late 1989.

Mr. Klaus said he insisted at the talks with Mr. Meciar that Mr. Havel be re-elected president. Mr. Meciar said Sunday he rated Mr. Havel's chances of re-election as "minimal."

Mr. Meciar was ousted as Slovak premier in May 1991 by Mr. Havel's allies, and has made no secret of his dislike for the play-wright-president.

"The federation is lost and according to HZDS, a common state is lost as well," Mr. Klaus said after the talks.

But he added that Mr. Meciar's people had said a final verdict on Czechoslovakia's future could come only in a referendum.

Mr. Meciar has said this should take place by year's end.

"In that case, the only way is to hold the same referendum with the same question, in the Czech republic," Mr. Klaus told CTK.

Italians boycott local polls

ROME (R) — Italian leaders fought for more time to form a new government on Tuesday after exasperated voters stayed away in droves from local elections and the results underscored the country's north-south divide.

President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro postponed until Wednesday what was planned as a last day of talks with party chiefs to end a two-month crisis since general elections in April crippled the main parties.

But it appeared Mr. Scalfaro might need a further round of talks — which would make it unlikely that he could name a prime minister before next week to head Italy's 51st government since World War II.

Officials results released over-

night for partial local elections on Sunday and Monday showed low turnout throughout Italy, with 23 per cent of voters not bothering to cast their ballots.

In the southern city of Naples, almost a third of voters — a record — stayed away from the polls.

The voting for 157 local administrations, with fewer than two million Italians eligible to vote, emphasised deep divisions between the wealthy north and struggling "mezzogiorno" (south).

In the northern city of Trieste, protest parties including the Neo-Fascists and the Northern Autonomy League made the strongest gains.

But in Naples, voters gave a

slight boost to parties of the establishment including the dominant Christian Democrats (DC) of outgoing Premier Giulio Andreotti and the Socialists, his main partners in government.

Italy's deepening economic and moral crisis gave the election an importance out of proportion to its size.

It came after a city-wall bribery scandal, uncovered in Milan in February but only now revealing the extent of graft in local politics.

The authoritative Turin Daily La Stampa said the vote confirmed the trend set by the April polls, in which voters registered their disgust at political corruption but failed to elect any obvious alternative.

Indonesians vote in general elections

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesians went to the polls on Tuesday in a general election certain to hand victory to the ruling party of President Suharto who has led the world's fourth most populous country for almost 27 years.

At stake are 400 seats in the national assembly which has never initiated nor rejected any legislation during the 71-year-old Gen. Suharto's iron rule.

Another 100 assembly seats are given to the military which brought Gen. Suharto to power after crushing an attempted coup, blamed on the now-banned Communist Party in 1965.

Jakarta was almost empty of traffic as many people stayed away from work in the morning to vote.

Reports from around the city said it was very quiet and the turnout fairly high.

"I'm just using my right to vote but I don't expect much from the people I choose," office worker Mohammad Rizal said while queuing under the mid-morning sun at a polling station in east Jakarta.

"They (members of parliament) mostly come, sit, listen and leave."

There are nearly 300,000 polling booths around the scattered islands of the tropical archipelago.

About 107 million Indonesians are eligible to vote. Legislative elections are held every five years and usually have turnouts of

more than 90 per cent.

Political analysts predicted the ruling Golkar Party would win less than the 73 per cent of the vote it took in 1987, though not much less.

"I think they'll probably drop a few points," said one diplomat.

Some analysts said it would be embarrassing for a government which says it wants to encourage greater democracy to win too big a majority.

In the cities and more rebellious provinces, political analysts say there is strong support for the two small opposition parties — the populist Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI) and the Muslim-based United Development Party (PPP).

Both have complained of intimidation and even torture and the PDI claimed one of its supporters died after being beaten by police.

The opposition has persistently attacked the government's economic policies for favouring the rich and its reluctance to allow more democracy.

The opposition say vote-rigging cheated them out of more seats in parliament in the election five years ago.

This time the government has promised a clean election but analysts say that in many rural areas where the bulk of the population lives the local bureaucracy will still ensure a handsome Golkar win.

Japan troops bill passes upper house

TOKYO (R) — Japan's upper house of parliament approved early on Tuesday a controversial bill that would allow Japanese troops to serve abroad in peacekeeping missions for the first time since the end of World War II.

The bill, voted in plenary session by 137 against 102, now goes back to the more powerful lower house for final approval.

The original version of the bill, drafted by the government, passed the lower house in December. But it was watered down after strong opposition from the Socialists and Communists.

The revised text would ban the government from committing troops to such U.N. combat duties as separating warring factions. Separate legislation would be needed to lift the ban.

By agreeing on a diluted ver-

sion, the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) sealed a pact with two small centrist parties to gain a voting majority in the upper house.

The government first mooted the bill in late 1990 when the United States was seeking partners for a military coalition to force Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait.

Japan, hampered by its anti-militarist laws, was unable to contribute troops or military equipment but instead donated some \$13 billion towards the Gulf war effort.

But, to the government's chagrin, it still came in for bitter allied criticism that it was seeking to safeguard its vital oil supplies from the Gulf by paying soldiers of other countries to fight for Japan's interests.

Perot 'plans' unconventional convention

DALLAS (Agencies) — Ross Perot is planning to hold a national political gathering after the Democratic and Republican presidential nominating conventions this summer but he has not yet chosen a date or a place, a spokesman said on Monday.

"We're anticipating there will be some kind of event, some kind of celebration for getting Mr. Perot on the ballot and for announcing a vice presidential candidate," Mr. Perot aide James Squires told Reuters. "But it certainly will not be a conventional convention."

The Democratic Party will formally nominate Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton as its presidential candidate at a national convention set for July 13-16 in New York. The Republican Party will nominate President George Bush for re-election on August 17-20 in Houston.

Mr. Perot, a Texas billionaire businessman, is expected to seek the presidency as an independent candidate in the November election.

Mr. Squires said any decision on a Perot "convention" location was premature. "We're not even close to picking a site," he said. "It's just so up in the air."

Perot leads

Meanwhile, President Bush's approval rating dropped again this month in a nationwide poll released Monday, and independent candidate Perot continued to lead in a three-way matchup with the president and Mr. Clinton.

The ABC news-Washington Post poll also asked respondents to name which candidate was strongest on specific issues. The candidates were seen as strongest on the issues they've been pushing in their campaigns: Mr. Bush was seen as strongest on foreign affairs and traditional family values; Mr. Clinton on inner-city problems and the middle class and Mr. Perot on economic issues.

Thirty-five per cent approved of Mr. Bush's job performance, down from 40 per cent in an

ABC-Post poll on May 12. His approval rating hit an all-time high of 90 per cent in March 1991, just after the Gulf war.

The 35 per cent rating is the lowest of his presidency in an ABC-Post poll.

In a three-way general election matchup, Mr. Perot had 38 per cent, Mr. Bush had 30 per cent and Mr. Clinton had 26 per cent, virtually unchanged from the May survey.

But the respondents said they were supporting candidates by default. Nearly half of Mr. Perot's supporters said they don't like him so much as they dislike the other candidates; 45 per cent of Mr. Clinton's supporters and 40 per cent of Mr. Bush's said the same thing.

Mr. Perot Monday sought views for his independent platform from a group of important mayors discussing big-city needs at a conference in Texas.

And, in an ominous development for President Bush and Mr. Clinton, some party politicians have started to tie themselves to

Mr. Perot's coattails and run for office as "Perot independents."

Others are thinking about it.

For several weeks Mr. Perot has been soliciting opinions on such issues as gun control, drug treatment and urban woes.

Monday's meeting, arranged at the Texas tycoon's request, was part of Mr. Perot's plan to gather views and prepare positions before he launches his independent presidential bid.

Playing to public dissatisfaction with the governing process, and clearly with an eye to Mr. Perot's independent status, Mr. Clinton insisted he too is an "outsider" in the political establishment despite his argument that he can work with the democratically controlled Congress to pass a broad programme of measures.

"I'm not talking about exonerating Congress for any of the past problems," Mr. Clinton told reporters before flying to New York for a fund-raiser.



Ross Perot

cratic national convention to show that, as a Democrat, he would be able to work with Congress and quickly enact health-care and job proposals.

Mr. Bush on Monday tried to rebut critics of his environmental positions at the Earth Summit in Brazil with an offensive promoting his own environmental record.

COLUMN

British condoms to buy chickens for the Saudis

NEW YORK (AP) — A jury found a bogus scheme to trade British condoms for Soviet poultry about as funny as a rubber chicken. The jury in U.S. district court in Manhattan has convicted a Detroit lawyer of defrauding investors of \$75,000 in a fictitious deal to buy condoms in England, barter them for chickens in the Soviet Union and sell the birds to Saudi Arabia. Thomas M. Muccante, 32, of Grose Pointe, Mich., also was found guilty of passing \$3.26 million in counterfeit Australian bonds to a former client. The government charged that Mr. Muccante in March 1990 gave the former client, Stuart M. Berger, a Manhattan doctor and author, four phony bonds he had made on a personal computer using desktop publishing software. Prosecutors showed during the seven-week trial that Muccante used some of the money to pay off two other men duped into investing in the condom deal. But the jury acquitted Muccante of some charges linking the bond and condom schemes.

Man gets 15 years for raping wife

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — A provincial court sentenced a man to 15 years at hard labour for raping his wife during Ramadan, an Islamic holy month in which Muslims are obliged to abstain during daytime from food, drink and sex. The case is unprecedented in Egypt, the newspaper Al Akhbar said. Judge Abdul Raouf Kobtan, head of the Benha criminal court in northern Egypt, convicted and sentenced the husband Monday. Al Akhbar said. The newspaper gave the name of neither husband nor wife but said the man had appealed. The wife testified that she refused to have sex with her husband on April 3, 1991, because she was observing Ramadan but he beat and raped her. Egyptian law does not hold that a man can rape his wife. The government says 95 per cent of the legal system conforms with the laws of Islam, and the sacred Koran enjoins a woman to do what her husband asks of her. But it also says nobody must be obeyed whose order would lead to a violation of the religion's tenets.

Japan unveils magnetic dentures

TOKYO (R) — A Japanese company has developed a system by which false teeth are fixed to the mouth by a magnet, the firm has said. The magnet helps fix the teeth to a small, stainless-steel plate embedded in the top of the mouth, said a spokesman for Hitachi Metals. Asked whether the magnet might also attract forks, spoons, needles or other metal objects, the spokesman said: "In the early stages of development, we were worried about that. But our new product is perfectly designed so as to stop the magnet from attracting anything except false teeth." The company tried the attachment first on rabbits and rats to test its safety, he said.

'Knots Landing' actor dies of AIDS

LOS ANGELES (R) — Actor Larry Riley, who appeared on the television soap opera "Knots Landing," has died of complications from AIDS, his publicist has said. "The cause of death was renal failure as a complication of AIDS," publicist Paul Gendreau said. Riley, 39, died on Saturday June 6 at St. Joseph's medical centre, he said. Riley played attorney Frank Williams for five seasons on the long-running drama set in the fictional southern California suburb of Knots Landing.

Judge upholds \$900,000 award in Buchwald suit

LOS ANGELES (R) — A judge ruled Monday that humorist Art Buchwald and a partner should receive the full \$900,000 originally awarded to them in a trial over the rights to profits from the hit film "Coming to America." Judge Harvey Schneider said Paramount Pictures could not deduct \$32,500 the studio already paid to Mr. Buchwald and producer Alain Bernheim for developing the idea for the top-grossing film starring comedian Eddie Murphy. After a two-year trial, Mr. Buchwald and Mr. Bernheim won a suit in March in which they contended they conceived the plot for the 1996 movie and were therefore entitled to a share of the profits.